

FIX THE DEFINITION OF CONVERSION THERAPY:

I agree with the government's contention that coercive, degrading actions that seek to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity should be banned. However, Bill C-6 does something different.

It applies the label "conversion therapy" to a broad range of practices and even private conversations, going far beyond what most people think of when they hear this term.

The definition in Bill C-6 says that conversion therapy is "a practice, treatment or service designed to change a person's sexual orientation to heterosexual or gender identity to cisgender, or to repress or reduce non-heterosexual attraction or sexual behaviour."

The definition does not just apply to efforts to change a person's sexual orientation – it could also ban many different kinds of advice and counsel from parents, teachers, and guidance counselors encouraging children to reduce their sexual behaviour. (E.g., A counselor encourages a young person to reduce his or her number of sexual partners).

Bill C-6 could open the door for law enforcement to tap into private family communications to investigate discussion that might fit the bill's broad definition of "conversion therapy".

Further, while Bill C-6 expressly allows counselling, medical, and surgical efforts to change a child's gender, it expressly prohibits any support for a child seeking to de-transition to their birth (cis) gender.

If passed, Bill C-6 could restrict the choices of LGBTQ2 Canadians concerning sexuality and gender by prohibiting access to any professional or spiritual support freely chosen to limit sexual behaviour or de-transition.

Therefore, for the above reasons, I think that the Liberal Government needs to reconsider Bill C-6. Bill C-6 is a proposed ban on so-called "Conversion Therapy" which I believe is an unprecedented assault on our Canadian civil rights, our freedom of belief and expression and our religious freedoms. It discriminates against Evangelicals, Catholics, Jews, Muslims, Social Conservatives, and anyone who holds to a traditional view on sexuality and gender. This law will also discriminate against ex-LGBT individuals. It is a form of thought-control and political suppression. This bill is unacceptable in its present form in a free and democratic society. It must be stopped or amended to avoid this future discrimination against law abiding citizens.

I believe if Bill C-6, if passed, will punish or jail parents for affirming gender-confused children in the sex they were born with, pastors for providing spiritual guidance, and therapists for counselling clients who voluntarily ask for help with unwanted sexual feelings.

I would therefore encourage you strongly to add these amendments to Bill C-6 as follows below:

1. Ban coercive, degrading practices that are designed to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity;

2. Ensure that no laws discriminate against Canadians by limiting what services they can receive based on their sexual orientation or gender identity;
3. Allow parents to speak with their own children about sexuality and gender, and set house rules about sex and relationships;
4. Allow free and open conversations about sexuality and sexual behaviour; and
5. Not criminalize professional and religious counseling voluntarily requested and consented to by LGBTQ2 Canadians.

Thank you so much for giving this your attention.